

Appendix S1: search strategy (updated until January 2012).

PubMed/MEDLINE:

("Clinical Trials as topic" [MeSH Terms] OR "Randomized Controlled Trials as Topic" [MeSH Terms] OR random* OR trial) AND (TEP OR TEPP OR (total* AND extraperiton*) OR lichten* OR *liechten* OR laparosc* OR "Laparoscopy" [MeSH Terms] OR preperiton* OR (endosc* AND (inguinal hernia OR "Hernia, Inguinal" [MeSH Terms])))

Full spelling of terms used in the search: randomized controlled trial, totally extraperitoneal, extra peritoneal, Lichtenstein, Liechtenstein, laparoscopy, laparoscopic, preperitoneal, endoscopic, inguinal hernia

CENTRAL (Wiley):

(Inguinal hernia or groin hernia) in Title, Abstract, Keywords, OR Hernia, Inguinal in MeSH descriptor in Trials in the Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials (<http://www.thecochranelibrary.com>).

EMBASE (OvidSP):

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- 1 tep.mp. [mp=title, abstract, subject headings, heading word, drug trade name, original title, device manufacturer, drug manufacturer, device trade name, keyword]
with terms: totally extraperitoneal
 - 2 tepp.mp. [mp=title, abstract, subject headings, heading word, drug trade name, original title, device manufacturer, drug manufacturer, device trade name, keyword]
with terms: totally extraperitoneal
 - 3 (total* and (extraperiton* or extra periton*)).mp. [mp=title, abstract, subject headings, heading word, drug trade name, original title, device manufacturer, drug manufacturer, device trade name, keyword]
with terms: totally extraperitoneal, extra peritoneal
 - 4 (lichtenst* or liechtenst*).mp. [mp=title, abstract, subject headings, heading word, drug trade name, original title, device manufacturer, drug manufacturer, device trade name, keyword]
with terms: Lichtenstein, Liechtenstein
 - 5 laparosc*.mp. [mp=title, abstract, subject headings, heading word, drug trade name, original title, device manufacturer, drug manufacturer, device trade name, keyword]
with terms: laparoscopy, laparoscopic
 - 6 (pre periton* or preperiton*).mp. [mp=title, abstract, subject headings, heading word, drug trade name, original title, device manufacturer, drug manufacturer, device trade name, keyword]
with terms: pre peritoneal, preperitoneal
 - 7 (endosc* and inguinal hernia).mp. [mp=title, abstract, subject headings, heading word, drug trade name, original title, device manufacturer, drug manufacturer, device trade name, keyword]
with terms: endoscopic, endoscopy, inguinal, hernia
 - 8 1 or 2 or 3 or 4 or 5 or 6 or 7
 - 9 (random* and trial).mp. [mp=title, abstract, subject headings, heading word, drug trade name, original title, device manufacturer, drug manufacturer, device trade name, keyword]
with terms: randomised, randomized, trial, trials
 - 10 8 and 9
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